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that I believe the NRDs are very important to local communities, and there seems to be an impression that possibly they are providing more services to farmers, ranchers, or those in rural areas, but the entire state is u...is using the natural resource districts and the services that they provide. Also, I want to point out that we are continually asking the natural resources districts to do more, not less, but do more through the legislation that we have been passing, not only last year, but also this year, the Livestock Waste Management Act, LB 870 of this year. Last year my priority bill was the buffer strip a bill to, again, protect water. I think we're constantly asking them to do more, and that is some of the reasons that I say leave it, I support leaving it as it is at this point. Thank you. Oh, and if I have any remaining time, I would like to turn it over to Senator Beutler.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Stuhr, thank you very much. Just let me add in a couple of quick points. I know we don't want to take all afternoon on this debate, but keep in mind, Senator Cudaback, the old dollars, are they losing dollars or are they just shifting dollars? You know that's all a characterization. But if you're talking about state funds, they are losing \$1.6 million unless you stick with the Appropriations Committee's appropriation to them returning them that money. They are losing that because they are not getting the state motor vehicle tax money that they used to get, that they've always gotten. Okay. So when Senator Wickersham says, no, they're not losing money, what he means is he makes the assumption that they are going to levy additional property taxes in the amount of \$1.6 million and then they won't lose any money. But I thought that one of...the major project that the Revenue Committee has been working on for so long now is the reduction of property taxes. And so if you want to reduce property taxes, you should be looking at ways to see that we've replaced all of the money we need to replace, both with counties and with NRDs, with state funds. And that's the business that we've been about, replacing all these monies with state funds. But in this case, for some reason, it's suggested that the NRD money should not be replaced with state funds, the money that they're losing and, instead, we should wait a year and wait for